

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 HEW-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: PERU ADOPTS POPULATION POLICY

1. HEALTH MINISTER GENERAL JORGE TAMAYO DE LA FLOR ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 2 THAT THE GOP WOULD IMPLEMENT A NATIONWIDE POPULATION POLICY TAMAYO DECLARED THAT THE GOP INITIATIVE REPRESENTED THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE POPULATION POLICY IN PERU'S HISTORY. THE OBJECTIVE, SAID TAMAYO, WAS TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION WHICH HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH STUDYING THE POPULATION QUESTION, THE NEW GOP PROGRAM WOULD SERVE A DOUBLE PURPOSE. IT WOULD ENABLE PARENTS TO MAKE A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE CHOICE ON THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND AT THE SAME TIME IT WOULD SEEK COUNTRY-WIDE DEMOGRAPHIC GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION IN CONSONANCE WITH NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS. TAMAYO STATED THAT CHURCH AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY CONSULTED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE POLICY STUDY.

2. THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE "EL PERUANO" PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 3 A DECREE LAW APPROVING THE COMMISSION'S STUDY AS A BASIS FOR THE GOP POPULATION POLICY AND CALLING FOR THE ADOPTION OF NECESSARY MEASURES, PRIMARILY IN THE HEALTH AND EDUCATION SECTORS, TO ATTAIN NEAR TERM GOALS. THE BASIC DOCUMENT, ALSO
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PUBLISHED IN "EL PERUANO", REFERS TO THE PROVISION OF EDUCA-

TIONAL INFORMATION AND NECESSARY SERVICES TO ENABLE COUPLES
TO PRACTICE RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD.

3. GOP POPULATION POLICY IS PRESENTED IN TERMS SIMILAR TO FIRST
MEXICAN PLUNGE INTO THIS CONTROVERSIAL AREA -- EMPHASIS ON
RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND SCRUPULOUS AVOIDANCE OF THE TERM
"BIRTH CONTROL". THE GOP TOOK CARE TO MEET WITH NEWSPAPER
DIRECTORS BEFORE PUBLICATION OF THE POPULATION DECREE AND
STUDY IN ORDER TO CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATE MEDIA REACTION. PUBLI-
CATION HAS BEEN FOLLOWED UP WITH TV AND RADIO SPOTS IN ORDER
TO HELP SHAPE PUBLIC OPINION. LIMITED GOP POLICY SHOULD BE
LESS OFFENSIVE TO THE CHURCH THAN TO LEFTIST "REVOLUTIONARY
MILITANTS" WHO FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS HAVE EQUATED POPULATION
GROWTH WITH NATIONAL PRIDE. THE CHURCH HAS INDEED BEEN CON-
SULTED AND A JESUIT PRIEST WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN DRAWING UP THE
BASIC GOP POPULATION POLICY STUDY. THE POPULATION POLICY IS
FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE NEW GOP COMMITMENT TO PRAGMATISM
OVER THEORY.
SMITH

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